

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAR 24 2008

Amendments To Claims (in marked up form)

1. (currently amended) An anchor comprising:

a body defining a cavity, wherein the body has top and bottom ends;

a wedge portion that connects to the body using threads, wherein the wedge portion encircles a support member received in the cavity and includes an upper surface having holes defined therein, wherein the holes receive pins on a key used to turn the wedge relative to the body, using the threads; and

a compression ring disposed in the cavity, wherein the compression ring expands and contracts in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body.
2. (original) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the wedge portion and the body are formed from a stainless steel.
3. (hereby canceled)
4. (currently amended) The anchor of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the upper surface of the wedge portion includes at least three holes, wherein two of the holes are disposed opposite each other, on either side of the support member when the support member is received in the cavity.
5. (currently amended) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the wedge portion includes a substantially flat upper surface that is substantially flush with a substantially flat upper rim of the body when the anchor engages the support member and the upper surface of the wedge portion and the rim of the body are positioned to be substantially flush with a ground surface in which the anchor may be positioned.
6. (original) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the cavity has a diameter in the range of 1.4-1.6 inches.
7. (previously canceled)

8. (original) The anchor of claim 1, further comprising a means for preventing the body from rotating relative to a ground surface in which the anchor is mounted, when the wedge is turned relative to the body.

9. (original) The anchor of claim 1, further comprising an anti-rotation tab connected to the body.

10. (original) The anchor of claim 9, wherein the anti-rotation tab comprises an electrical grounding means.

11. (original) The anchor of claim 9, further comprising a grounding screw connected to the anti-rotation tab.

12. (original) The anchor of claim 9, wherein the anti-rotation tab is connected to the body approximately midway between the top and bottom ends of the body.

13. (original) The anchor of claim 1, further comprising:

a bottom plate connected to the bottom end of the body; and

a spacer positioned inside the cavity at a connection between the bottom plate and the bottom end of the body, wherein the spacer spaces the support member away from the bottom portion when the support member is received in the cavity.

14. (original) The anchor of claim 13, wherein the spacer comprises a chamfered bottom corner that contacts a lower end of the support member when the support member is received in the cavity.

15. (original) The anchor of claim 1, further comprising a spacer disposed in the cavity, wherein the spacer abuts the support member received in the cavity and spaces the support member away from other portions of the body.

16. (previously amended) An anchor for supporting a cylindrical support member, comprising:

means for receiving the support member;

means for releasably securing the support member received in the anchor by compressing a compression ring around the support member in response to a torsional force exerted on the means for receiving, wherein the compression ring and said means for releasably securing are disposed within the means for receiving, wherein the compression ring compresses as it moves laterally relative to a longitudinal axis of the anchor in response to movement of the means for releasably securing relative to the means for receiving; and

means for preventing the anchor from moving relative to a ground surface in which the support member is positioned, in response to the torsional force.

17. (original) The anchor of claim 16, further comprising means for centering a lower end of the support member within the anchor.

18. (original) The anchor of claim 16,

wherein the means for receiving and the means for securing are both formed from a stainless steel; and

wherein the means for receiving engages the means for securing via threads; and further comprising means for preventing the means for receiving from forming a permanent bond with the means for securing, at the threads.

19. (previously amended) An anchor comprising:

a body that defines a cylindrical cavity having a length in the range of 4-6 inches; and

a wedge portion that connects to the body, wherein the wedge portion includes an upper surface having a plurality of holes defined therein, wherein the holes receive complementary pins on a key that is used to rotate the wedge portion relative to the body, and wherein the wedge portion is disposed within the cavity and encircles a support member received in the cavity, and wherein the upper surface of the wedge portion is substantially flush with an upper end of the body when the support member is received and secured in the cavity.

20. (previously canceled)

21. (previously added) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the wedge portion is disposed within the cavity.

22. (previously added) The anchor of claim 1,
wherein the body includes a tapered interior wall proximate the top end, and
wherein the compression ring is disposed within the cavity in contact with the tapered interior wall.

23. (previously added) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the compression ring moves laterally relative to a longitudinal axis of the cavity in response to movement of the wedge portion.

24. (previously added) The anchor of claim 1, wherein the compression ring comprises an elongated, contiguous piece of material separate from the body, having first and second ends and being shaped to encircle the support member that is received in the cavity, wherein the compression ring contacts the support member to connect the support member to the anchor.

25. (currently amended, previously added) An anchor comprising:
a body defining a cavity, wherein the body has top and bottom ends;
a wedge portion that connects to the body using threads, wherein the wedge portion encircles a support member received in the cavity and includes an upper surface having holes defined therein, wherein the holes receive pins on a key used to turn the wedge relative to the body, using the threads[.]; and

a compression ring disposed in the cavity, wherein the compression ring expands and contracts in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body.

26. (previously added) The anchor of claim 25,
wherein the wedge portion is disposed within the cavity,
wherein the body defines a tapered interior sidewall within the cavity proximate the top end of the body, and

wherein the compression ring is a separate, contiguous piece of material that encircles the received support member, contacts the tapered interior sidewall, and contracts and expands as it moves laterally along a longitudinal axis of the cavity in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body.

27. (previously added, currently amended) The anchor of claim 19, further comprising a compression ring disposed within the cavity that moves laterally relative to a longitudinal axis of the cavity in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body, to thereby expand and contract around ~~[[a]]~~ the received support member.

28. (new) An anchor comprising:
a body defining a cavity, wherein the body has top and bottom ends;
a wedge portion that connects to the body using threads, wherein the wedge portion encircles a support member received in the cavity;
a compression ring disposed in the cavity, wherein the compression ring expands and contracts in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body; and
a means for preventing the body from rotating relative to a ground surface in which the anchor is mounted, when the wedge is turned relative to the body.

29. (new) An anchor comprising:
a body defining a cavity, wherein the body has top and bottom ends;
an anti-rotation tab connected to the body, wherein the anti-rotation tab comprises an electrical grounding means;
a wedge portion that connects to the body using threads, wherein the wedge portion encircles a support member received in the cavity; and
a compression ring disposed in the cavity, wherein the compression ring expands and contracts in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body.

30. (new) The anchor of claim 29, wherein the electrical grounding means comprises a grounding screw connected to the anti-rotation tab.

31. (new) An anchor comprising:

a body defining a cavity, wherein the body has top and bottom ends;
a bottom plate connected to the bottom end of the body; and
a spacer positioned inside the cavity at a connection between the bottom plate and the bottom end of the body, wherein the spacer spaces the support member away from the bottom plate when the support member is received in the cavity;
a wedge portion that connects to the body using threads, wherein the wedge portion encircles a support member received in the cavity; and
a compression ring disposed in the cavity, wherein the compression ring expands and contracts in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body.

32. (new) The anchor of claim 31, wherein the spacer comprises a chamfered bottom corner that contacts a lower end of the support member when the support member is received in the cavity.

33. (new) An anchor comprising:
a body defining a cavity, wherein the body has top and bottom ends;
a wedge portion that connects to the body using threads, wherein the wedge portion encircles a support member received in the cavity; and
a spacer disposed in the cavity, wherein the spacer abuts the support member received in the cavity and spaces the support member away from other portions of the body; and
a compression ring disposed in the cavity, wherein the compression ring expands and contracts in response to movement of the wedge portion relative to the body.